

October, 2021

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968

Helping People. Changing Lives.
KI BOIS® Community Action
PARTNERSHIP
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK



KI BOIS NEWS

Carroll Huggins Named “Unsung Hero”



The 11th Annual Gordon Youth, Inc. Foundation Banquet & Fundraiser was held at the Choctaw Casino Center Stage Ballroom in Pocola on August 14th. Keynote Speaker was Rufus Alexander, former NFL Linebacker.

The 2021 Unsung Community Hero award was presented to Carroll Huggins, Executive Director/CEO. Mrs. Lana Huggins received an arm full of roses.

The Gordon Youth, Inc. Foundation was founded in 2007 by Roy Gordon, Sr. who was a longtime KI BOIS Community Action Board Member. Their Mission Statement reads, "Assist economically disadvantaged youth with money or college serving Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma."

*** Continued on Page 3 ***

Charla Sloan receives the Guy Tucker Memorial Award



Thursday, September 23, 2021 was a great day at KI BOIS Community Action. Leadership staff attended the General Session of the OKACAA Fall Virtual Conference. During this morning session, our very own Charla Sloan, KATS Director, received the Fred Tucker Service Award. This annual award recognizes an outstanding Community Action employee who has distinguished himself/herself as an individual who has significantly contributed to the mission of fighting poverty, through a career dedicated to Community Action.

*** Continued on Page 3 ***

Congratulations!

***From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO
R. Carroll Huggins***

Covid-19 has changed so many things and adversely affected so many lives. I am thankful that we have had the opportunity to help hundreds of low income people with the additional burdens that have been placed on them since March of last year.

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated is privileged to have such a committed group of board members, staff, and volunteers that use their talents and resources to help those who are less fortunate. Their expertise and commitment to helping people and changing lives is commendable.

Our Community Action Agency helps people and changes lives every day in cities, towns, and rural communities all across our service area. As the Community Action Partnership promise indicates, “Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes our communities a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.”

***Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO***



KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

John Cook
Board Chairperson

Cecil Williams
1st Vice Chair

Steve Carter
2nd Vice Chair

Jan Coplen
Secretary/Treasurer

Frank Phillips
Parliamentarian

Joy Walker
Executive Board Member

Members of the Board

Joyce Cleveland

Janice Williams

De’Anne Booth

Jeremy Bullard

Rosalind Didlott

Henry Burriss

Roy Gordon, Jr.

Kodey Toney

Charles Regan

Ross Selman

Mike Mouzakis

Bud Smithson

Executive Leadership

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director/CEO

Tom Marlatt
Associate Director/CFO

Larry Hall
Associate Director/COO

KI BOIS NEWS

is published quarterly by
KI BOIS Community Action
Foundation, Inc.

Royce Alverson, Editor
918-967-3325, Ext. 134
Royce.Alverson@kibois.org



KI BOIS Community Action welcomes our new Board Member De’Anne Booth. She’s no stranger to KI BOIS as she worked for over 30 Years in the Head Start program. We are honored to have her.

Pictured L-R: Carroll Huggins, Executive Director/CEO; De’Anne Booth; John Cook, Board Chair and Cecil Williams, 1st Vice Chair.

KI BOIS Community Action Board Member Roy Gordon, Jr. was seated at our bi-monthly Board Meeting in September. He continues a long legacy of the Gordon family as his father, Roy Gordon, Sr. served for many years.



Pictured L-R: Carroll Huggins, Executive Director/CEO; Roy Gordon, Jr.; John Cook, Board Chair and Cecil Williams, 1st Vice Chair.



Columbus Day Holiday - October 11, 2021

Bosses Day - October 16, 2021.

KI BOIS Executive Board Meeting - October 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Weatherization Day - October 30, 2021

Halloween - October 31, 2021

Veteran’s Day Holiday - November 11, 2021

UNSUNG COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

ROBERT CARROLL HUGGINS



Robert Carroll Huggins, CCAP, is the Executive Director/CEO of KI BOIS Community Action in Stigler, OK. Carroll was born in Okmulgee, OK and grew up on a large cattle ranch southeast of Stigler. He graduated from McCurtain High School, then Oklahoma State University with a BS in Education. He received a HUD Fellowship in 1971 to work on his Master's degree in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma, and taught mathematics and science at Oklahoma City Public Schools.

Carroll accepted employment with KI BOIS Community Action as a County Coordinator in 1968. He joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1967 and retired 30 years later as Sergeant Major. Carroll has served on multiple local, state and regional boards, as well as the recipient of many awards such as Governor's Award in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. The US Department of Agriculture awarded Carroll Outstanding Rural Leader. He has also been the recipient of the Fred Tucker Memorial Award, Business Man of the Year, Veterans of Foreign War Man of the Year, Oklahoma Transit Executive of the Year, Haskell County Business Man of the Year. Carroll has served as Past Worshipful Master of Stigler Lodge #121 and the McAlester

Scottish Rite - KCCH. Carroll served three five-year terms on the Stigler School Board. In 1997, Carroll was appointed to the Board of Regents of Carl Albert State College, where he continues to serve 24 years later.

In 1978, Carroll accepted a promotion into his current position, Executive Director/CEO of KI BOIS Community Action, a major social service agency in southeastern Oklahoma. KI BOIS Community Action has grown tremendously under his leadership, today with an annual budget of \$43,000,000 and approximately 1,050 employees.

Carroll serves faithfully in his church as a Deacon, as well as a Gideon. Every Sunday, one can be reminded by Carroll on Facebook that "Today will be a great day to take your family to Sunday school and church!"

Carroll will say his greatest "accomplishment" has been his 55-year marriage to his bride, Lana Joyce Holdridge. Carroll and Lana have three sons, Jon, Matt and Mike. His three sons gave him three daughters through marriage, one beautiful granddaughter and five handsome grandsons. Carroll is a licensed pilot, a Master Beekeeper, and raises registered quarter horses, cattle and bees on his ranch in Stigler.

The smile on Carroll's face and contentment in his eyes tells the story of a good life he continues to live well.

"Unsung Hero"

*** Continued from Page 1 ***



Pictured L-R: Tracy Gordon, Carroll Huggins, Lana Huggins, Roy Gordon, Jr.

Charla Sloan

*** Continued from Page 1 ***

Fred Tucker Service Award Charla Sloan KI BOIS Community Action



Charla Sloan, Director of KI BOIS Area Transit System (KATS), has seen the rural transit system she's in charge of grow tremendously over the past several years. The wide range of services KATS provides to many communities enables individuals to have reliable transportation to and from a variety of places. Over the years, as needs have changed, Charla has been a go-to person in the transit world. She spends long hours promoting her program to individuals, organizations, and legislators from Oklahoma City to Washington, D.C. She's served as President of the Oklahoma Transit Association and Southwest Transit Association, as well as on board with the Community Transit Association of America and the national RTAP Board.

It's evident after visiting with Charla for a few minutes her passion for rural transit. One of her greatest accomplishments has been leading KATS into a collaboration with the Cherokee Nation and Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Eastern Oklahoma to provide transportation to Native Americans within their respective jurisdiction in Oklahoma. This partnership has enhanced access to employment, healthcare, and places of higher learning.

Her latest project saw her being on a committee to implement the new rural, curb-to-curb, on-demand after-hours transportation program called PICK across Oklahoma. PICK rider's book their trip through a smartphone via the Uber app, or by calling a toll-free telephone number. This has become a game changer for individuals who have no other means of transportation. It's already proving to be successful.

Charla has worked for over thirty years at KI BOIS Community Action. She's committed herself and her staff to a spirit of service. Behind the scenes, you can always find Charla working toward obtaining more funding for transit, catching up with the latest trends in transportation or getting input from her staff on how to improve not only her program, but others throughout the state.



Charla congratulated by KI BOIS Executive Board Members Cecil Williams and John Cook, along with Carroll Huggins, Executive Director/CEO.



Charla with KI BOIS Executive Leadership Carroll Huggins, Larry Hall and Tom Marlatt.

Board Member Spotlight



JOY WALKER

Tell us a little about yourself:

I grew up in Westville and attended East Central University in Ada. My intent was to be a history/social studies teacher but, unlike today, there was an overabundance of teachers. I went to work for the Department of Human Services in the interim; liked the work and stayed for 42 years. My husband and I live in Muskogee and have a son and daughter and four grandchildren. Today, I volunteer for several different organizations.

What is your role on the Board?

I serve on the Board of Directors and Executive Board. We are the governance body and have financial oversight. To be an effective board member, I must embrace the mission and vision of KIBOIS and be well informed of both the organization's programs and activities and the communities' needs. I participate in strategic planning meetings and program evaluations and serve on advisory councils and committees. I take pride in having a near-perfect attendance record—we can't conduct business unless we have a quorum.

What do you like most about KI BOIS, CAF?

I am proud to be a part of an organization that maintains high ethical standards and is respectful to both the staff and the people served.

What has compelled you to serve on the KI BOIS, CAF Board?:

I learned at the Department of Human Services, the important role nonprofits play in meeting the needs of low-income and disadvantaged families. KI BOIS partners with other organizations in identifying needs and maintaining or developing programs and projects. When organizations work together, the community, as a whole, is better. I'm retired, but I want to continue to use my skills to help people and their communities.

What kind of hobbies and interests do you have?

I enjoy reading and rural living. We have cattle, horses, three miniature donkeys, two llamas, a dog and quite a few cats. I love cats!

Quote/Motto:

My motto is "commitment to task". That means, if I take on a responsibility I am going to do what I committed to do, regardless of how difficult or time-consuming.

Random Fun Fact:

Few people today would look at me and guess that I was totally immersed in the sport of rodeo for the first 45 years of my life. I once wrote a complete rule book for a junior rodeo organization which was subsequently copied by other organizations.



KI BOIS Community Action wishes a Happy 50th anniversary to RSVP volunteers, sponsors, stations and supporters of RSVP!

As we recognize this milestone, AmeriCorps wishes to thank the many millions of RSVP volunteers who have served and the thousands of organizations and project staff members who have sponsored the program since the program was created.

These projects empower older Americans to use their skills to solve problems in their communities! We at KI BOIS certainly appreciate the RSVP Volunteers and their director, Sandie Rutherford, for their hard work and dedication.



Employee Service Awards

10 YEARS

Kevin Bess
 Tanya Bess
 Michael Boatner
 Dalena Brewer
 Denice Daniels
 Christopher Franks
 Paula Hall
 Dean Hess
 Richard Kramer
 Kathy Mikles
 Larry Moore
 Amanda Prewett
 Rebecca Renne
 Victor Sampson
 Elizabeth Self
 Jeanie Womack

15 YEARS

Kandy Abreo
 Titus Burgess
 Melissa Colwell
 Bobbi Dotson
 Mary Elliott
 LaShelle Goff
 Aaron Goodman
 Torri Hudson
 Janee Lewis
 Melissa Lowe
 Diane Wallen
 Mary Washburn
 Terry Williams

20 YEARS

Sharon Arnett
 Patricia Box
 Patricia Glass
 Paula Goforth
 Gena Gray
 Joyce Honeycutt
 Jimmy Knight
 Wanda Mills
 Shaunda Noah
 Shelia Twyman

30 YEARS

Ronald Davis
 Mathew Gentry
 Rosalind Newby
 Tommy Taylor



Virgil Augustus Rutherford, Jr.
 09/15/1959 — 08/11/2021
 Virgil was the husband of KI BOIS RSVP Director Sandie Rutherford.



Ronald Jeral Howe
 09/08/1954 — 08/07/2021
 Ronald was a KATS employee from the Poteau office.



By Larry Hall, Associate Director/COO

In our world today, we are bombarded by all things that are wrong, political fights, vaxxers vs anti-vaxxers, voting rights, racial injustice, women’s rights, masks or no masks, social media, on and on. Wedge issues that cause us to not trust anyone anymore. I for one am tired of hearing

about all the things wrong with people in general and definitely ones who don’t think like me. We need to look for the good in our lives, the good in all people and enjoy what the good Lord has blessed us with.

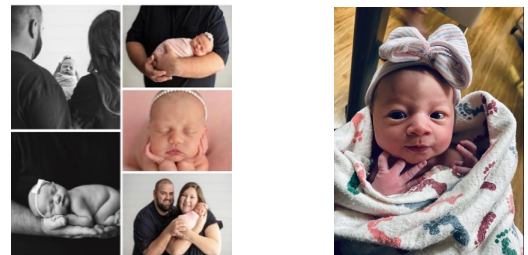
Every day is special and you can’t have it back once it is gone. Wasting time being upset and angry about things out of our control robs us of the chance to embrace the good things that we have; our faith, family, friends, freedom, a great place to work, and a chance to enjoy life to the fullest. So,

I ask you to smile, take time to stop and smell the roses, reach out to a friend or a relative you haven’t heard from in a while, and let them know you are thinking of them in a good way. You will be surprised how it makes you feel, and them too. We all are important! Don’t be afraid to show you care for others. As the song says, “reach out and touch, somebody’s hand, make this world a better place if you can!”

Smile and enjoy life! It is yours to take with you!

Larry

Welcome TO THE WORLD LITTLE ONE



Left picture is Abbigail Grace Moreland, granddaughter of Sequoyah County Director Melissa Lowe. Right picture is Laityn Grace Underwood, granddaughter of ESG-CR Case Manager Patty Underwood.



IT'S TIME...To Select Your Insurance Benefits for 2022

October 1, 2021 marked the opening of Option Period 2022. This open enrollment/change opportunity is only available once a year. If you wish to make any changes to your existing coverage or want to enroll for the first time, please contact Jessica Kleman at 918.967.3325 or jessica.kleman@kibois.org. KI BOIS Community Action pays a benefit for employees only for HealthChoice High and HealthChoice Basic Plans. If you choose to cover dependents, you are responsible for the full cost of their coverage. Employees are also responsible for the full cost of employee and dependent coverage for dental, vision or life.

DEADLINE TO RETURN ALL FORMS – OCTOBER 28TH, 2021

All Changes To Existing Coverage And New Enrollments Will Be Effective January 1, 2022

Option Period Information

www.omes.ok.gov/services/employees-group-insurance-division

Visit the website above to go directly to the Option Period Information. You'll find excellent information regarding health, dental, vision and life plans; plan changes, (if any); plan comparisons; contact information; eligibility requirements; and more! If you do not have computer access – please call us! It is your responsibility, and always to your advantage, to be familiar with your benefits.

Tobacco Free Attestation/Verification of Benefits

<https://gateway.sib.ok.gov/Attestation/>

Visit the website above to complete both the Tobacco Free Attestation and/or the Verification of Benefits. Enter the Primary Member's information, select continue, then select the option you are wishing to complete.

Remember If you wish to stay enrolled in the HealthChoice High or HealthChoice Basic Plan for the 2022 coverage year, you must **complete the Tobacco Free Attestation before November 12, 2021**. Failure to complete the Attestation will result in automatic enrollment in the Alternative Plan. Deductibles are **higher** for the Alternative Plans!

Retired! Over 100 years of combined service to KI BOIS



Pictured L-R: Kay Box, Joyce Honeycutt, Mike Davis, Edith White and Sandra Few. Thank you all for your dedicated service to KI BOIS Community Action. Have fun!

MEDICARE ASSISTANCE

The Senior Health Insurance Counseling Program (SHIP) is a non-profit organization helping to inform the public about Medicare and other senior health insurance issues. This division provides accurate and objective counseling, assistance, and advocacy relating to Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, long-term care, and other related health coverage plans for Medicare beneficiaries, their representatives, or persons soon to be eligible for Medicare.

Call your local counselor with the KEDDO Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-722-8180 or 918-465-2367.

You can also call the SHIP Senior Help Line at 1-800-763-2828 for assistance.



Happy Weatherization Day!
October 30, 2021

IN *Action*



Doylene Knowlton, KI BOIS Human Resources Director and Royce Alverson, KI BOIS Community & Public Relations Director represented KI BOIS at the Haskell County Job Fair at Kiamichi Tech Center in Stigler on October 7, 2021.



KI BOIS Central Office staff show their support to [#break-the-cycle](#) and [#stopdomesticviolence](#). Staff will wear these purple “BREAK THE CYCLE” shirts on Thursdays throughout the month of October. Pictured L-R: Marcy Ross, Linda Love, Courtney King, Shelli Bass, Michael Knapp, Brandie Risenhoover, Christi Jones, Jessica Klemen and Shelly Davis.



KI BOIS Retired Senior Volunteer Program Annual Recognition Banquet at the First Assembly Family Life Center located at 303 Southeast A Street in Stigler, OK on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 from 4-6pm

The Era of Changes
Celebrating our Volunteers for the time and work you give!



The annual RSVP Appreciation Banquet was a huge success. Volunteers and staff were treated to a delicious meal, musical entertainment by Jonnie Rea, the Charleston was danced by KI BOIS Healthy Living Program Assistant Coordinator Kathy Healy and RSVP volunteer Kathleen Andersen and remarks from Carroll Huggins and Larry Hall. Sandie Rutherford, RSVP Director and her team did a fantastic job of planning the event. We love our volunteers at KI BOIS.



IN *Action*

Celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness Month at Robbers Cave State Park



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and efforts are made throughout the month to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of breast cancer through special events and education programs.

A very special event took place on October 3, 2021 at Robbers Cave State Park in Latimer County. A 5K run was organized to honor KI BOIS Rx for Oklahoma/VITA Director Amy Fair, who recently completed treatment for breast cancer and was eager to resume running.

Amy’s sister-in-law, Lizzie Jeffrey, along with Amy’s running friends from Wilburton organized the surprise run with many of Amy’s high school friends, family members and other dedicated runners in attendance. Everyone was eager to run to raise awareness and to support Amy.

Approximately 100 people completed the race either by running or walking the course. Amy finished the race, also. Although she did not come in first, she’s a winner either way.

According to Amy’s mother Claudia Jeffrey, Latimer County Director, “It was a wonderful afternoon of renewing friendships and enjoying food together as we celebrate those who have fought and won the breast cancer battle. It was a day of honoring and remembering those who have courageously fought this battle.”



WE ARE HIRING!

A career with KI BOIS is a career with a future! ✓



Operating Since 1968 ✓

On-The-Job Training

Paid Vacation ✓

Competitive Pay

MEDICAL/DENTAL LIFE ✓

Service Awards

MATCHING RETIREMENT ✓

ARE YOU OUR MISSING PIECE?

Follow us on: facebook.com/kibois

KI BOIS Community Action is the largest non-profit employer in S.E. Oklahoma. We provide growth opportunities and a great place to work! www.kibois.org



All employment opportunities are posted on our website, www.kibois.org. *These positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public.* (ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING.)
Deadline for all openings: Until Filled. Current employees – please submit a letter of interest to Human Resources.

Applications may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. office or printed from the website, www.kibois.org. Applications should be returned to:

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.
P. O. Box 727, Stigler, OK 74462
Attention: Human Resources



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action *changes* people's lives, *embodies* the *spirit of hope*, *improves* communities, and makes America *a better place to live*. We care about the *entire community*, and we are dedicated to *helping* people *help themselves and each other*.



KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. Mission Statement

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is a community-based organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty and bettering the economic, mental, physical and social well-being of all people - most importantly the disadvantaged - by utilizing effective coordination and administration of available resources and information.